

# HAINESVILLE LUTHERAN CHURCH — E L C A



Sunday, December 31st, 2023

First Sunday of Christmas

"The Little Church with a Big Heart"

Presiding Minister: Pastor Mary Lou Plummer

Keyboard: Heidi Hintz      Liturgist: Jim Hanstad

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**WELCOME TO WORSHIP at HAINESVILLE LUTHERAN CHURCH.** *We're glad you're here. If you are visiting with us, please sign a visitor card and place it in the offering plate. We thank you for joining us in worship and pray that our time together is a blessing to you. And... please join us for our weekly fellowship brunch after worship. There's always plenty and you are very welcome. If you are looking for a faith community, we would be pleased to have you call HVLC your "church home".*

**PRELUDE AND RINGING OF THE BELL**

**WELCOME AND STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

**CHILDREN'S CHAT AND NOISY OFFERING FOR HUNGER RELIEF**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

**C** Amen.

**P** Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P** God of life,

**C** **you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.**

**P** Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In † Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.

**C** Amen.

**GATHERING HYMN:** "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

**HYMN # 283**

**GREETING**

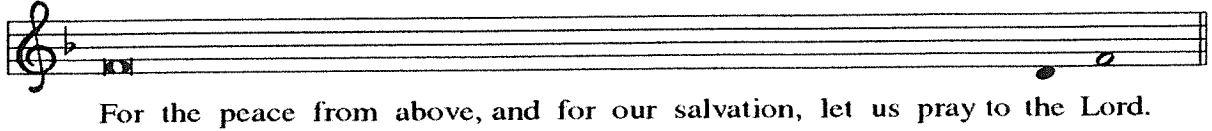
**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** **And also with you.**

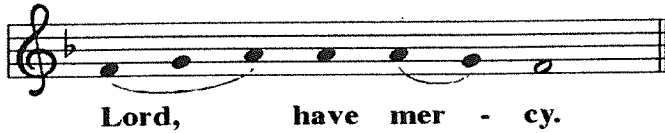
KYRIE (setting #3 pp139-140)



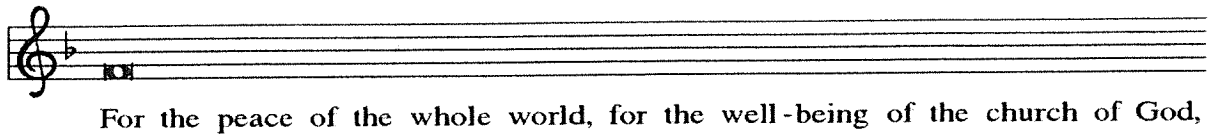
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



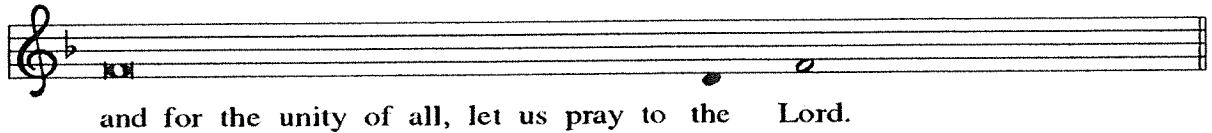
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



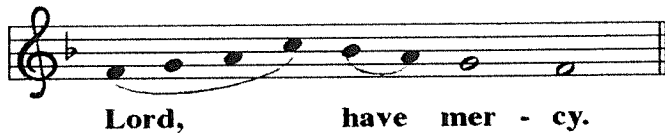
Lord, have mer - cy.



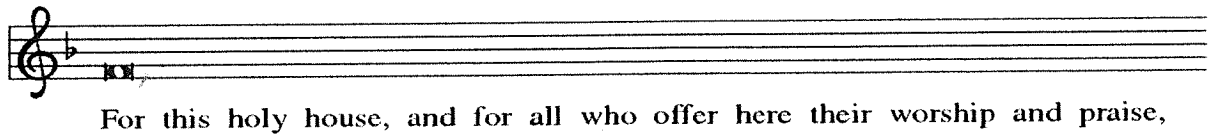
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



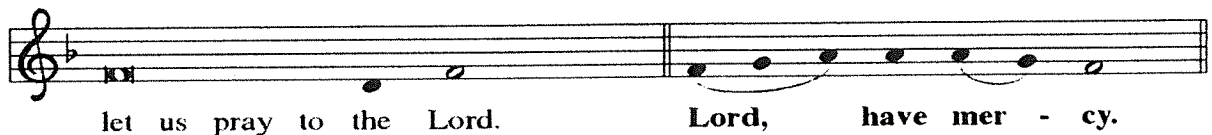
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



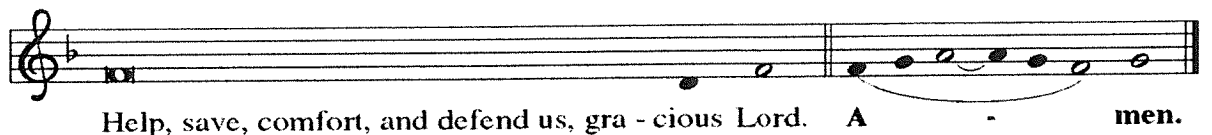
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

# HYMN OF PRAISE



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray. Almighty God,  
**C** you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:10--62:3

<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

<sup>62:1</sup>For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning torch.

<sup>2</sup>The nations shall see your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

<sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

**R** The word of the Lord                      **C**        **Thanks be to God**

## PSALM: Psalm 148 (read responsively)

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

<sup>2</sup>**Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

<sup>3</sup>Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

<sup>4</sup>**Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created,  
<sup>6</sup>**who made them stand fast forever and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**  
<sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;  
<sup>8</sup>**fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**  
<sup>9</sup>mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;  
<sup>10</sup>**wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;**  
<sup>11</sup>sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;  
<sup>12</sup>**young men and maidens, old and young together.**  
<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.  
<sup>14</sup>**The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!**

**SECOND READING: Galatians 4:4-7**

<sup>4</sup>When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup>And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

R Word of God, Word of Life

C Thanks be to God

**GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40**

*Luke's narrative continues with stories that emphasize Jesus' connection to Judaism. His family is devout in its observance of the law, and Jesus himself is recognized as one who will bring glory to Israel.*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"),  
<sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death

before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup> Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup> "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;

<sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup> And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

<sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup> so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

<sup>36</sup> There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup> then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup> At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup> When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

P      The Gospel of the Lord      C      Praise to you O Christ.

**GOD'S WORD FOR TODAY**

Pastor Mary Lou Plummer

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*"The First Noel"*

**HYMN # 300**

**APOSTLES CREED** *(please stand as you are able)*

P      Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was**

**buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.**

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.** *(please share Christ's peace with one another)*  
*(you may be seated)*

## OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Create in Me" ELW #186

C Create in me a clean heart O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

## OFFERING PRAYER

P God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

C Amen.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

RESPONSE TO PRAYERS P *Hear us, O God* C **Your mercy is great**

**Bill (Albert), Matt (Albert), Tom (Angermeier), Devin (Bartos), Lyle (Berndt), Karen & Del (Brewer), Elaine & Jim (C), Eugene (Clark), Mike & Rina (Clumpner), Robert (Connrey), Allan & Betty (D), Danielle (Davis), Pat (Fenrich), Emery (Freiberg), Ruth (Grainger), Mathilde & Richard (Hannemann), Cindy (Knapp), Shari (Krueger), Ellie (Krull), Joe (May), Ken (Overland), Matthew (Rocque), Alice (Rocque-Angermeier), Lexi & Laci (S), Lori (Snyder), Eric (Thorson), Charlotte, Dave, Erik, and Joe.**

C Amen.



## THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P Gathered in to one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
- C **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

## BLESSING

- P God bless you and keep you, † Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.
- C Amen.

## TABLE BLESSING

- P Let us pray together the table blessing.
- C **Come Lord Jesus, be our guest and let these gifts to us be blessed. Amen.**

SENDING HYMN      *"Joy to the World"*      Hymn # 267

## SENDING FORTH

- P Christ the Savior is born!  
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.
- C **Thanks be to God.... AND WE WILL !!**

## POSTLUDE

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*If you purchased a poinsettia, please take it home with you after worship today.*

*In the event of weather related closings at church -- please listen to WDOR or Channel 2 for cancellation notices and check our Facebook page*

**The Poinsettias that bless our worship have been given by:**

**Tom & Alice Angermeier**

*In memory of Randy Hansen  
In memory of Lester & Lorraine Hansen  
In memory of Hank & Maralee Angermeier  
In memory of Tom Rocque*

**Evelyn Breider**

*In memory of John H. Breider  
In memory of Barbara Foster*

**Merle & Dianne Eskildsen (2)**

*In memory of Norbert & Esther Jeanquart  
In memory of Glenn & Lill Eskildsen*

**Roy Jilburg (2)**

*In memory of Joanna Jilburg  
In memory of Anna Lisa Jilburg*

**Russ & Ellen Klister**

*In memory of Rose & Ray Klister  
In honor of Marlene & Pete Larson*

**Joe Korte (2)**

*In memory of Kathy Korte*

**Pete & Marlene Larson**

*In memory of Eleanor & Emanuel Mueller  
In memory of Sophie & Thomas Larson*

**John & Carolyn Melland**

*In memory of Mary Bosben*

**Arne & Peggy Odegaard (4)**

*In memory of Ruth & Arne Odegaard  
In memory of Catherine, Cleo, & Linda Funk*

**Mary Lou Plummer (2)**

*In memory of Lloyd Berg  
In memory of John & Dorothy Curran*

**Kathy Schmitz & Rilynn (2)**

*In memory of Jim & Sandy  
In memory of Roy & Dorothy Schmitz*

**Jan Shusta**

*In memory of David Borchardt*

**Jim & Marla Vogel**

*In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Vogel  
In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Orman Strechert*

**Plants can be taken home after the service on Sunday, December 31st**

Starting with the new year we will be reinstating the prayer request policy of the past. This means that your prayer request will be on the list for 3 months unless you state otherwise. You can re-request to keep them on the list or put them back on. Prayer request forms are found on the back of each pew on colorful card stock. Please fill them out and place them in the offering plate or on the desk in the office area. Thank you for your co-operation with this worthwhile ministry for those who are struggling among us.

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### From the Stained Glass Window Committee

An anonymous couple has pledged to match up to \$5,000.00 in additional funds raised for our Stained-Glass Windows. If we can reach this goal we will be very close to the amount needed to complete this project. All donations are confidential. If you wish to contribute to this fund please indicate on your contribution that it is to go for the windows. Please contact Linda Monahan, Bill Albert, Jim Vogel, Evelyn Breider, or any Council member with any questions.

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#### Serving in worship today (December 31st)

Presiding minister: Pastor Mary Lou Plummer  
Liturgist: Jim Hanstad  
Ushers: Deb & Dave Grunwald  
Reader: Jan Shusta  
Keyboard: Heidi Hintz

#### Serving in worship next week (January 7th)

Presiding minister: Pastor David Raben  
Liturgist: Jim Hanstad  
Reader: Jan Shusta  
Ushers: Linda Kohn & Jan Shusta  
Communion Assist: Gordy Hughes  
Keyboard: Peggy Odegaard

#### Readings for next week (January 7th)

##### **Genesis 1:1-5**

God creates light God creates light

##### **Psalm 29**

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters. (Ps. 29:3)

##### **Acts 19:1-7**

*Baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus*

##### **Mark 1:4-11**

*Revelation of Christ as God's servant*

**Stewardship Opportunities Dec 31-Jan 7**

Today the fellowship meal is being provided by the folks whose last name begins L-Z. Next week the folks whose last name begins A-K will be providing the fellowship meal.

**Week at a Glance December 31st-Jan 7th**

**Tuesday Noon**

Book Club "A Life Without Flowers" by Marci Bolden

**Wednesday 8 AM**

Men's breakfast and Bible Study

**Saturday 9 AM**

Undecorate the church

**Birthdays for January**

Jan 1st Ed Stawikowski  
 Jan 2nd Becky Brown  
 Jan 4th Elsie Wagner  
 Jan 9th Bob Packniak  
 Jan 12th Vicki Hannemann  
 Roberta Roalkvan  
 Jan 18th Mathilde Hannemann  
 Jan 20th Becca Anderson  
 Nolan Schultz  
 Jan 22nd Sharon Albert  
 Jan 27th Bob Petersen  
 Jan 30th Greg Adlon  
 Marla Vogel

**Anniversaries for January**

None on record this month

Attendance last week: 66

Nov 2023						
				TOTAL		
	Nov	Budget	Variance	YTD	Budget	Variance
Offerings	6,088	6,107	(19)	66,404	67,177	(773)
Total Income	6,487	7,568	(1,081)	73,490	83,248	(9,758)
Total Expenses	5,913	7,568	(1,655)	74,363	83,248	(8,885)

Large print bulletins are available from the ushers or are located on the usher stand area.